

# 25th Commander of The Turkish Naval Forces

**Admiral Bülent BOSTANOĞLU**  
23.08.2013 -



Admiral BOSTANOĞLU was born in Karadeniz Ereğli in 1953.

He graduated from the Naval High School in 1970 and the Naval Academy in 1973. After completing his Fundamental Officers Training, he began to serve as the Communications Officer onboard TCG TINAZTEPE.

During his sea tour from 1975 to 1980 he assumed a variety of duties, respectively as the Division Officer and Department Head, onboard the patrol boat TCG SULTANHISAR and the destroyers TCG TINAZTEPE, TCG BERK and TCG ADATEPE. Graduating from the Turkish Naval War College in 1982, he served onboard TCG ANITTEPE as the Navigation and Operations Officer.

From 1983 to 1989, he was assigned as the NATO Exercise Planning Officer in Turkish Navy Headquarters and graduated from the Turkish Armed Forces College in 1989.

From 1989 to 1991, Admiral BOSTANOĞLU served as the Executive Officer onboard the destroyer TCG SAVAŞTEPE. During this period, he graduated from the US Naval War College in 1990. He then commanded the destroyer TCG SAVAŞTEPE from 1991-1993 and the frigate TCG MUAVENET from 1993-1994.

After his sea tour, he was assigned as Branch Head of Plans & Organization Division in the Turkish Fleet Headquarters from 1994 to 1995. In 1995, he was appointed to Athens/Greece for 3 years as the Naval Attaché. Before his promotion to the flag ranks, he commanded Destroyer Division Four from 1998 to 1999 and served as Chief of Operations Directorate in the Turkish Fleet Headquarters till 2000.

After being promoted to Rear Admiral (Lower Half) in 2000, he served in Plans & Policy Directorate in the Turkish General Staff Headquarters. Admiral BOSTANOĞLU commanded the Turkish Escort and Patrol Boats Flotilla from 2002 to 2003 and assumed his duty as the commander of Southern Task Group in 2003.

Having been promoted to Rear Admiral (Upper Half) in 2004, he served as the Commander of Turkish Naval War College till 2005, Chief of Operations Directorate at the Turkish Navy

Headquarters from 2005-2007, Commander of the Surface Action Group & Northern Task Group till 2008 and Chief of Staff of the Fleet Command from 2008 to 2009.

Upon his promotion to Vice Admiral in 2009, he assumed Chief of Communications, Electronics & Information Systems Directorate in the Turkish General Staff Headquarters from 2009 to 2010. He subsequently commanded Naval Training and Education Command until August 2011 and Northern Sea Area Command from August 2011 to January 2013. He was assigned to the Turkish Fleet as the Commander in January 2013.

Admiral BOSTANOĞLU was promoted to the rank of Admiral in 2013, and was assigned as the 25th Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces on 23 August 2013.

His decorations include Turkish Armed Forces Medal of Honor, Turkish Armed Forces Distinguished Service Medal and NATO Medal for the former Yugoslavia.

Admiral BOSTANOĞLU is married to (b) (6), has (b) (6).  
Admiral BOSTANOĞLU knows English.



# BIOGRAPHY

## THE TURKISH NAVAL FORCES COMMAND

### ADMIRAL BÜLENT BOSTANOĞLU - CNO

Admiral BOSTANOĞLU was born in Karadeniz Ereğli in 1953. He graduated from the Turkish Naval Academy in 1973.

As a junior officer, following Branch School and Fleet training period, he served as Communication and CIC Officer aboard destroyers; TCG TINAZTEPE, TCG BERK and TCG ADATEPE, and patrol boat TCG SULTANHISAR between 1975 and 1980.

Admiral BOSTANOĞLU, following his graduation from the Turkish Naval War College in 1982, served aboard destroyer TCG ANITTEPE as Operations Officer between 1982 and 1983.

Ashore, Admiral BOSTANOĞLU served in the Turkish Naval Forces Headquarters Operations Department, as NATO Exercises Project Officer between 1983 and 1989. He graduated from Turkish Armed Forces College in 1989.

Admiral BOSTANOĞLU served as Executive Officer aboard destroyer TCG SAVAŞTEPE between 1989-1991, commanded destroyer TCG SAVAŞTEPE between 1991-1993 and frigate TCG MUAVENET between 1993-1994.

Admiral BOSTANOĞLU served at the Turkish Fleet Headquarters as Chief of Plans and Organization Branch between 1994-1995. Admiral BOSTANOĞLU was assigned as Turkish Naval Attaché to Athens between 1995-1998. Admiral BOSTANOĞLU served as the Commodore of the 4<sup>th</sup> Destroyer Division between 1998-1999 and as Chief of Operations at the Turkish Fleet Headquarters between 1999-2000.

Following his promotion to Rear Admiral (LH) in 30 August 2000, he served at the Turkish General Staff Headquarter as Chief of Greece-Cyprus Department between 2000-2002. As a Flag Officer he commanded the Escort and Patrol Group between 2002-2003 and the Southern Task Group between 2003-2004.

He was promoted to Rear Admiral (UH) in 30 August 2004 and became the Commandant of the Turkish Naval War College; in 2006 he was assigned as N-3 of Turkish Naval HQ, and in 2007 War Fleet Northern Task Force Commander. He took over Fleet COS mission in 2008.

He was promoted to Vice Admiral in 2009 and became Chief of J-6 of Turkish General Staff HQ. In 2010, he was assigned as Cdr. of Training and Education. Between 2011 August and February 08, 2013 he served as Cdr. of Northern Sea Area Command. Since this date, he is serving as Fleet Commander.

He was promoted to ADM rank and assigned as Turkish Naval Forces Commander (CNO equivalent) effective from August 30, 2013.

Admiral Bülent BOSTANOĞLU is married to (b) (6) and he has a (b) (6)

Admiral BOSTANOĞLU is a graduate of US Naval War College.





(b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(a), 1.4(b), 1.4(d), (b)(5)

(b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(a), 1.4(b), 1.4(d), (b)(5)

**READ AHEAD**

FOR: SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FROM: Ms. Jodi Greene, Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy (Policy)

SUBJECT: (U) Read Ahead for Meeting with Admiral Bulent Bostanoglu, Chief of Naval Operations of the Turkish Naval Forces, 9 December 2015, 1510 - 1530

- Chief of Naval Operations of the Turkish Naval Forces (TNE), Admiral (ADM) Bulent Bostanoglu has requested a pull-aside with you at the Gulf of Guinea Maritime Security Dialogue on 9 December 2015. He is in the United States for the Gulf of Guinea Maritime Security Dialogue as well as his official CNO Counterpart Visit.
  - ADM Bostanoglu is not serving on a panel during the Dialogue. He will conduct an official call with CNO at this Washington Navy Yard residence prior to his call with you. His complete itinerary is at TAB C.
- You last met with ADM Bostanoglu during your November 2014 visit to Turkey.

**Internal Context**

- Recep Tayyip Erdogan, prime minister since 2003, became Turkey's first directly elected president in 2014. (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(b), 1.4(d), (b)(5) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(b), 1.4(d), (b)(5) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- Turkey is home to a sizeable Kurdish minority, which by some estimates constitutes up to a fifth of the population. Since late 2012, the Government of Turkey (GOT) has publicly engaged with imprisoned Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Ocalan to secure a negotiated end to a 30-year conflict that has claimed 40,000 lives in Turkey. Despite a ceasefire in March 2013, and a later withdrawal of an estimated 1500 armed militants from Turkish territory, southeastern Turkey has been rocked by a new wave of unrest that has left several hundred people dead since the two-year truce between Ankara and the PKK fell apart in July 2015.

- On 2 December, a Turkish soldier was killed and five other soldiers and one civilian were injured after PKK militants detonated a roadside bomb as a military vehicle was passing in the southeastern province of Mardin.
- Since becoming an EU candidate country in 1999, Turkey has introduced a number of economic and civil society reforms in order to align with EU practices, including easing restrictions on the minority Kurdish languages. (b) (5)

### Political-Military Relationship

- (b) (5). Its location and shared borders with Iran, Iraq and Syria make it strategically important for addressing a number of security challenges including terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and regional security.

- b(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(g), 1.4(d)

### Regional Issues

#### Syria

- The instability in Syria continues to have a significant impact on Turkey's security. Turkey continues to be focused on the overthrow of Syria's President Assad (b) (5). (b) (5). (Turks prefer the term DA'ESH over Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) so as to delegitimize the group as neither a state nor truly Islamic. DA'ESH is an Arabic acronym for ISIL but is a term disliked by the group).



- While Europe continues to be pressed by the refugee situation, Turkey has (b) (5) accepted over 2 million Syrian refugees, including roughly 200,000 the two weeks after the city of Kobane was threatened by DA'ESH in October 2014. The U.S. has provided over \$3.1 billion in humanitarian assistance but (b) (5) that there is insufficient international burden sharing for Syrian refugees.

#### Russia

- Recent events involving the Turkish shoot down of a Russian Su-24 jet, in addition to Russia's continued support for Syrian President Al-Assad have brought about a sharp drop in relations with Russia and increased tensions in the region for Turkey. Russia has stated that it will deploy advanced air defense systems and change its tactics in response to the jet shoot down. Russia is also imposing economic sanctions on Turkey
- The Turkish government also remains concerned by Russian actions in Crimea, particularly as it affects the fate of the Crimean Tatars, an ethnically Turkic group which makes up 12% of Crimea's population. Turkey supports Ukraine's territorial integrity as well as the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)'s role in monitoring the situation in Ukraine.

#### Black Sea/Montreux Convention

- (b) (5), which formally codifies Turkey's role controlling the entrance to the Black Sea via the Turkish straits. The 1936 agreement states non-Black Sea state warships passing through the Turkish straits must be under 15,000 tons and may stay in the Black Sea for no longer than 21 days. Signatory states include: Australia, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Japan, Romania, Russia (as the USSR), Turkey, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. The United States declined to send even an observer to the negotiation and is not a party to the Montreux Convention but has traditionally abided by its limits and straits transit notification procedures. Recently, the TNF participated in several PASSEXs and regional exercises in cooperation with the U.S. Navy (USN) in the Black Sea.

#### **International Contributions**

- Turkey joined NATO in 1952, helping to anchor NATO's southern flank against the Soviet Union. (b) (5) Turkey maintains the second largest army in NATO and supports NATO ballistic missile defense (BMD) through hosting of an AN/TPY-2 radar at Kurecik (Site K) in eastern Anatolia as part of the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA).

- Turkey also provides two large bases for U.S. use: Incirlik and Izmir.
- (b) (5) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Since 2009, Turkey has directly supported CMF's counter-piracy task force (CTF-151) through presence of force, deterrence, and leadership – taking command of the task force three different times.
  - CTF-151 under Turkey's lead has closely monitored migrant smuggling around the Gulf of Aden, ensuring proper authorities are informed of any unfolding situations, and (b) (5) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- In November 2014, the Turkish Foreign Ministry announced that it planned to submit a parliamentary motion to authorize troop deployments to the Central African Republic and Mali as part of UN-approved missions. (Since early 2014, the UN, European Union, and France have requested Turkey's participation in African missions.) The Foreign Ministry's announcement came after President Erdogan met with his French counterpart, who had been leading international involvement in the Central African Republic and Mali.
  - In November 2015, Turkey reiterated its pledge to deploy one military transport aircraft to UN peacekeeping operations on Mali (MINUSMA) or in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), in addition to deploying five military staff to MINUSMA headquarters. (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(g) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- Turkey has pledged to train UN peacekeepers through its renowned training facilities including the Partnership for Peace Training Center, Center of Excellence for Counter-terrorism, and the Multinational Center of Excellence for Maritime Security. The TNF has also offered specialized training in the field of maritime security.
- Turkey also supports the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with a frigate.

## Navy-to-Navy Relationship

- (b) (5) [REDACTED]. The USN has more partnership events with Turkey than with any other ally in the region. In 2015, we partnered with TNF on 12 different occasions, including recent exercise participation in Exercises EGEMEN (amphibious warfare exercise with USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3) and 26<sup>th</sup> MEU), NUSRET (anti-mining exercise; NUSRET was the name of the mining tug that mined the waters off Gallipoli sinking several British warships), and DODU AKDENIZ (which means "East Mediterranean" in Turkish and is an Anti-Surface (ASuW) / Anti-Submarine (ASW) / Anti-Denial (AD) exercise with USS DONALD COOK (DDG 75) and P-3C). The TNF has also provided personnel to participate in all four of Africa Partnership Station's EXPRESS series exercises and in NAVCENT's International Mine Countermeasures Exercise (IMCMEX).
- Turkey also participates in AGILE SPIRIT, a MARFOREUR-sponsored multilateral Company-level Field Training Exercise (FTX) designed to sustain U.S. and Turkish Armed Forces interoperability in the area of Counterinsurgency (COIN) training, and NIMBLE TITAN, a series of two-year, multinational, future-focused, global BMD campaigns that build awareness and understanding regarding potential cooperative responses and concepts in missile defense between the U.S. and its allies and partners.

- (b) (5) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

- (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(b), 1.4(g), (b) (5), [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- The TNF has officers and senior NCOs enrolled in a wide spectrum of USN educational programs, including Naval Command College, Naval Staff College, USMC Command and Staff College, and various Legal Studies programs. Technical training programs include cyber security, torpedo testing and maintenance, logistics, and human capital resources.
  - Two Turkish midshipmen (both plebes) are currently enrolled at the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), and will have attended the CNO/CMC-hosted luncheon at the Gulf of Guinea Maritime Security Dialogue with ADM Bostangolu.
  - Turkey has had 12 USNA graduates between 1990 – 2006.

#### Port Visits

- (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(b), 1.4 (g) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].
  - In November 2014, U.S. Sailors on liberty in Istanbul were attacked by a fringe, nationalist youth group which videotaped members of their group shouting anti-U.S. rhetoric and placing hoods on the Sailors' heads. This attack was immediately condemned by the GOT. The hoods are symbolic of a 2003 event when U.S. soldiers captured and hooded fighters later discovered to be Turkish Special Forces members operating in northern Iraq. This event, while largely unknown in the U.S., was widely reported in Turkey and seen as a direct insult to their nation.
  - As a positive sign, USS DONALD COOK concluded a successful port visit to Aksaz in November 2015 as part of Exercise DOGU AKDENIZ.

#### **Defense Procurement**

- Turkey currently has 72 open FMS cases valued at \$1.6 billion. Major FMS programs include: Excess Defense Article (EDA) frigates, Frigate Modernization (capability to launch and guide ESSM and Mk41 VLS aboard eight ships), submarine search-and-rescue (SAR) certification for Submarine Rescue Ship TCG ALEMDAR, Mk48 Heavyweight and Mk46 and Mk54 Lightweight Torpedoes, Phalanx CIWS Block 1B Baseline 2, AIM-9X, Harpoon, SLAM-ER and AH-1W.
  - Search-and-rescue (SAR) certification of TCG ALEMDAR will be the first time the USN will support certification of a non-U.S. Submarine Rescue Ship.

- Turkey currently operates 8 ex-OLIVER HAZARD PERRY-class frigates as their GABYA-class frigates. These ships have been significantly upgraded with a Mark-41 Vertical Launch System and a Turkish command and control system. (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(a), 1.4(b), (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

- (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(a), 1.4(b), (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

- (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(a), 1.4(b), 1.4(d)

[REDACTED]

- (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(a), 1.4(b), (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

#### Fleet Modernization

- The TNF is in the midst of an (b) (5) 10-year recapitalization of their fleet from a coastal force to a blue water navy adding many new capabilities. In October, they launched their first of two LSTs (BAYRAKTAR class) and have contracted with Navantia to have a Turkish indigenous shipyard build a light aircraft carrier of the Spanish JUAN CARLOS I class. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

- In October 2015, Exercise EGEMEN 15 (U.S.-funded, Turkish-hosted) took place off the Aegean coast of western Turkey. The focus of the exercise was to help the Turks understand how amphibious forces operate from onboard amphibious ships and under the control of the Commander, Amphibious Task Force (CATF) and Commander, Landing Force (CLF). Turkish observers were embedded aboard USS KEARSARGE.

- Additionally, (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(a), 1.4(g), (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

#### **Turkish Naval Forces (TNF) Overview**

- The TNF is an (b) (5) force of over 215 ships of various sizes and classes. The TNF's main power projection force is its fleet of 16 FFGs, eight of which are ex-OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class. The TNF also has eight corvettes, 13 submarines, 23 missile boats, 28 patrol boats, 32 MCM vessels, and 29 amphibious support ships.
- Turkey's Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) includes Spanish-Built CASA CN-235s and the Italian-built ATR 72.

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## TURKEY

TALKING POINTS FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
**Meeting with Admiral Bulent Bostanoglu,  
Chief of Naval Operations of the Turkish Naval Forces  
GOGMSD – 9 December 2015, 1510-1530**

- We value the increased security that Turkey brings to the region through your willingness to participate in exercises in the Mediterranean, Africa, and Gulf areas. We should continue to advance our relationship through increasing challenging scenarios of greater complexity.
- Thank you for your leadership within the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), and I would like to commend Turkey's willingness to expand its area of influence beyond its coastal areas by sending personnel to African and Gulf exercises. I hope you will continue this, and where your resources allow, include ship participation to provide greater richness to our global partners in exercises like the EXPRESS series.
- We are grateful the close coordination with Turkey with regard to basing of U.S. military aircraft and personnel at Incirlik Air Base to help combat terrorism.
- (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(b), 1.4(g), (b) (5)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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- Turkey's continued development of its amphibious capability is impressive and I am pleased that we were able to partner together in Exercise EGEMEN and to exchange information on the operation of amphibious forces.

- (b) (5) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

- (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(a), (b) (5), (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(g) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(b), (b)  
(5), (b)(1) E.O. 13526 1.4(g) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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